regard with mandatory imprisonment of at least six months to discourage newer dusts going on unabated by the industrialists as well as slum dwellers throughout the country.'

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE MIKISTRY OF POWER (SSIR1MATI JAYAWANTl MEHTA): (a) to (e) The theft of energy is covered under section 39 of the Indian electricity Act, 1910. Under this provision, whoever: dishonestly extracts/consumes or uses any energy shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extent to 3 years or with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 1000/ - or with both. Further under section 39A, whosoever attempts to commit or abets an offence punishable under Section 39 shall, notwithstanding anything contained m Section 116 of Indian Penal code, be published with penalty provided for the offence.

(b) Suggestions have been received for making the provisions relating to theft more stringent. The dial! of the new Electricity Bill received from the NCAER. the consultant engaged for this purpose. has more str ingent provisions.

NEW Guarantee Scheme for Power Projects

1204 SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER r>e pleased to State.

(a) the details of the new guarantee scheme for power projects announced by the Prime Minister in Lisbon, on 28th June. 2(1(10; and

(b) the response received. if any from the European countries for bidding in or power generation on transmission companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE !N THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (h) The Prime Minister, in his speech delivered at she India-European Union Business Summit at Lisbon, Portugal on June 27. 2000 announced that the Government is willing to consider a new guarantee structure for large transmission project and power purchase systems as well as accelerating the international competitive bidding (ICB) process for renovation and moderns of the country's power generating companies. It is still too early to expect a response.